

Software Engineering Internship

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STEP Project Category: Internship
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Major: Computer Science and Engineering



My STEP signature project was an internship I worked over the summer in Cleveland. I completed a 12-week software engineering internship for a ~100-person cyber security company. The company is called Keyfactor and they create software to help companies manage certificates for their enterprise environments.

My internship gave me confidence as a programmer, something I did not previously have. I understand computer science and the profession of developing code as a completely different thing now. I used to think programming was mainly about knowledge and since I didn't have any built up knowledge from years of programming, I was a bad programmer. I quickly found that not to be the case. Although there were many full-time developers who had much more knowledge than I did, I did not find that to be debilitating. The true talent in programming is the ability to work with technology you are unfamiliar with and educate yourself on it at that moment in time. The ability to read up on how a certain class or function works, and then implement it to solve the current problem at hand. This has made me a much more confident programmer, because I know I can do that well, and the knowledge will come with time.



I was motivated to do this project because because it will allow me to concentrate my efforts more effectively when trying to become a better programmer. I will no longer continue to try to touch as many technologies as I can and spread my knowledge out over lots of different languages and architectures, I will focus on building my problem-solving skills and resourcefulness. This will make me more marketable in the future, because I can adapt to all kinds of possible scenarios instead of only being able to perform in scenarios I have already encountered.



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